V Single rail and short welded three rail panels are being converted into long welded rails. This process removes fish plated joints from the track for greater reliability.

VI The specifications of rail steel have been upgraded and are in conformity with the International Union of Railways (UIC) specifications.

VII Ultrasonic Flaw Detectors are used to detect hidden flaws in the rail.

VIII Mechanised maintenance of track is being introduced progressively, for better and improved maintenance.

IX The track structure is being upgraded on a planned basis.

X To keep the track in good condition, track renewals are carried out whenever it becomes due for renewal subject to availability of funds.

Rail link rakes for Karnataka

4452. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways was approached by Government of Karnataka to provide sufficient railway rakes for movement (export) of 2 lakhs tonnes of Maize to Bangladesh from Ranibennur and Haveri of Karnataka; and

(b) by when the Railway rakes will be provided to that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Movement to Bangladesh is regulated due to limited acceptance of trains by Bangladesh Railways. Government of Karnataka has also been apprised of the same. As on date, there is only one demand in Karnataka for loading Maize to Bangladesh which will be cleared in its turn.

Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Raichur

4453. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move to cancel the present stop over of Rajdhani Express at Raichur;

(b) whether Railways are aware that such a proposal, if any, would cause a lot of inconvenience to the commuters of Raichur; and